

TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

December 2015

The Transportation Newsletter is designed to keep individuals and agencies updated on some of the public and private transportation issues in the Memphis and Shelby County area.

Fixed Route System: MATA's fixed route system consists of MATA bus and trolley service that operates on set routes, dates and scheduled times within the MATA service area. Buses are caught at a bus stop or terminal.

All fixed route buses are ramp equipped for mobility device users. People with disabilities and seniors with a proper ID card pay half fare anytime of day. Any trolley rider (ambulatory or mobility device user) that has problems boarding should request use of the lift from the operator and be permitted to do so.

MATApplus Paratransit Service: MATApplus is a curb-to-curb, shared ride form of public transportation that is comparable to the fixed route system under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). MATApplus provides service for all types of trips within their service area. **Riders must have a disability that prevents them from riding the MATA fixed route bus system and the disability must be verified by a professional familiar with the disability.**

There is no charge for assistance with a MATApplus application or photos.

INFORMATION

Departmental heads and staff positions and titles have constantly been changing during the past year and few riders currently have any idea who heads what department other than the MATA General Manager. Tom Fox who was interim general manager after Mr. Hudson left and before the arrival of Ron Garrison has left MATA.

BUS MAINTENANCE

According to Easter Seals Project ACTION Transportation Guide funded by the Federal Transit Administration, best pre-trip practice is to **test all lifts and ramps with a full load** at the beginning of shifts.

It is also stated pre-trip test should also include any other accessibility equipment such as automatic stop announcement annunciators, public address (PA) systems, wheelchair securitment kneeling mechanisms and vehicle signage, particularly the lighting for destination signs. All access equipment should be working when a bus pulls out; with MATA it does not. **These are daily problems for riders of MATA fixed route buses yet the problems continue when reported.**

The ADA requires drivers to immediately report any failure of a ramp or lift. Upon hearing of a lift or ramp failure, the dispatcher should check the headway of the next bus with a working lift or ramp. If the headway to the next bus is less than 30 minutes, it is important that the dispatcher contact the next bus and confirm the the lift or ramp is operational.

If the vehicle is a fixed route bus and the next bus won't come for more than 30 minutes, the ADA requires the transit agency to provide prompt (less than 30 minutes) alternative service to any individual unable to use the vehicle because the lift or ramp does not work. Individuals with disabilities that experience this problem should take advantage of this service. If MATApplus is sent, a riders can use this service although they have not applied and they do not pay the MATApplus fare to do so.

Back-up service should be in place

MATApplus frequently has broken securment equipment that does not allow mobility devices to be properly strapped down.

Memphis Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC)

MTAC is one of seven Standing Committees of the Memphis Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities (MACCD)

Meetings are held at 10:30 a.m. bi-monthly on the second Friday at the Trolley Barn located at 547 N Main. The meetings are free and open to the public. The next meeting will be Friday, February 12, 2016. For more information, contact Betty Anderson, Committee Chair at (901) 274-2247 or email bpetbet@aol.com.

The Memphis Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities (MACCD) is looking for new members.

Full council meetings are held bi-monthly on even months beginning in January 2016.

Each member must serve on at least one of the following committees:

1. Disability, Awareness and Health
2. Education and Employment
3. Housing, Accessibility and Recreation
4. Transportation

Each committee meets bi-monthly in odd months between full council meetings.

Fifty-one percent of the MACCD members must have a disability and all members must live or work in Shelby County.

All members will serve without compensation and are expected to be in attendance of all meetings of the Council. A notice of dismissal from the council will be sent by the Chairperson to any member following their third absence.

If interested in becoming a MACCD member, contact Gary Smith, Chair at Gary.Smith@tn.gov.

